

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJECT: LE REVEIL SAGA CONTINUED

REF: BEIRUT 1266-C

AGAIN, PHALANGE PARTY'S FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY LE REVEIL WAS ONLY BEIRUT PAPER TO HAVE DIFFERENT VERSION FROM ALL OTHER MEDIA OF PALESTINIAN ATTACK ON HAIFA-TEL AVIV ROAD. HEADLINED "USA OPPOSED TO ISRAELI REPRISALS AGAINST LEBANON" AND SLUGGED "FROM REVEIL SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT", FRONT-PAGE WASHINGTON DATED STORY IN REVEIL OF MARCH 14 HAD FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF STATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN RAID:

"WHILE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEPLORED YESTERDAY, FOR THE SECOND TIME SINCE SATURDAY, THE FEDAYEEN OPERATION, ON HAIFA- TEL AVIV ROAD, AMERICAN OFFICIAL CIRCLES HAD NOT RECEIVED UNTIL 1230 LOCAL TIME ANY INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE ISRAELI REPRISALS.

"THIS WAS REVEALED TO US YESTERDAY BY A HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL WHO ADDED THAT, IN CASES LIKE THIS, ISRAEL WOULD USUALLY INFORM USG AND ALLIES, IN ADVANCE, OF HER PLANS.

"THEN WE ASKED THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL: MR. CYRUS VANCE DECLARED,
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SATURDAY, THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIMINAL ACT SHOULD BE PUNISHED. WHAT DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE MEAN BY THAT? DID AMERICA INCITE ISRAEL TO ATTACK PALESTINIAN POSITIONS IN LEBANON?

"THE OFFICIAL ANSWERED THAT THE USG HAS URGED ISRAEL TO EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL AND TO AVOID ANY NEW BLOODSHED. ANY ISRAELI

ATTACK AGAINST PALESTINIAN POSITIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON WOULD RESULT IN DEATH OF MANY INNOCENT LEBANESE CIVILIANS, OF WHICH WASHINGTON WOULD NOT APPROVE. HOWEVER, AMERICAN POLITICAL CIRCLES DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ISRAELI LARGE-SCALE OPERATION IN SOUTH LEBANON WHERE MAIN PALESTINIAN BASES EXIST, AND FROM WHICH, ACCORDING TO ISRAEL, THE RECENT FEDAYEEN OPERATION WAS LAUNCHED.

"HAVE THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES REQUESTED AMERICAN INTERVENTION TO PREVENT ISRAELI RETALIATION? WE INQUIRED, ADDING, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ISRAELI ACCUSATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST LEBANON REGARDING THAR RECENT COMMANDO OPERATION?

"THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL ANSWERED: AMB. RICHARD PARKER HAS CONTACTED THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND REPORTED TO THEM USG'S CONCERN WITH THIS QUESTION. HE (THE AMBASSADOR) TOLD THEM THAT WASHINGTON DOES NOT APPROVE OF ISRAELI ATTACKS AGAINST LEBANON. IT (USG) DOES NOT HOLD LEBANON RESPONSIBLE FOR LAST SATURDAY'S OPERATION. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE ARE DEALING WITH THIS QUESTION AND WE ARE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH BEIRUT.

"THE LAST QUESTION: WHAT IS WASHINGTON'S OPINION ABOUT SENDING U.N. TROOPS TO THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER IN ORDER TO SOLVE SOME OF LEBANON'S PROBLEMS.

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"THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL REPLIED: WE HAVE NO OBJECTION. THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE THE BEST SOLUTION. BUT IT REQUIRES APPROVAL OF LEBANESE AUTHORITIES WHO WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THIS EFFECT TO THE U.N."
PARKER

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